GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:222
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Loss of Crops Due to Pest Attack
Datta Shri Sankar Prasad

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports of heavy losses suffered by the farmers in various parts of the country due to pest attack during the last one year;

(b) if so, the crops affected and the estimated loss suffered as a result thereof by the farmers;

(c) the States/UTs which have sought relief assistance from the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of relief provided to these States/UTs and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the crops from pest attack in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
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(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 222 DUE FOR REPLY ON 15TH DECEMBER, 2015.

(a) & (b): During Kharif, 2015 whitefly infestation was reported in cotton crop in Punjab and Haryana. State Government of Punjab has reported damage to Cotton crop in 3.32 lakh hectares, especially in eight cotton growing districts of Fazilka, Bathinda, Mansa, Shri Muktsar Sahib, Sangrur, Barnala, Faridkot and Moga. The State Government of Haryana has ordered special gridawari to assess the losses in cotton due to whitefly attack. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported loss to soybean, Urad and Moong crop during Kharif 2015, on account of yellow mosaic virus.

(c): The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted a composite memorandum for Rs.4821.64 crores as financial assistance for drought and pest attack.

(d): National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) guidelines provide for relief in cases of disasters, including pest attack. No, memorandum for financial assistance under NDRF has been received from Punjab and Haryana. The Inter Ministerial Central Team visited affected districts of Madhya Pradesh and submitted its recommendation which is under consideration of the Central Government.

The Central Government monitors the pest situation in the Country and send advisories to State Governments for effective action. Experts are also deployed to pest affected areas for proper advice and guidance of farmers and extension functionaries. Central Government also facilitates registration of sufficient numbers of pesticides to deal with important pests which have the potential to cause serious damage to crops.

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